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REMARKS

This is in response to the office action dated March 13, 2003. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the application.

5 Applicants note the withdrawal of the rejections as set forth in paragraphs 2-7 of the March 13, 2003 office action.

In regard to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the office action, applicants have amended claim 30 as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 30 is now allowable as being dependent on allowable claim 26.

10 In regard to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the final office action, claims 1, 32, 35 and 38 were rejected as being anticipated by the '095 patent to Babbin.

Claims 1, 32, 35 and 38 have been cancelled.

In paragraph 13 of the office action, claims 32, 35, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Torghele '815.

15 Claims 32, 35 and 38 have been cancelled.

In paragraphs 14 and 15 of the final office action claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095 in view of Enomoto '229 and Babbin '942;

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

20 In paragraph 16, claims 32, 35-36, 38, and 41-42 were rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095 in view of Babbin et al. '942.

Claims 32, 38, 41 and 42 have been cancelled. Claim 33 was objected to and has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 32. Claims 34, 35 and 36 are each dependent on allowable claim 33.

Reconsideration of claims 33-36 is requested.

5 **In paragraph 17, claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095 in view of Enomoto and Babbin et al. '942, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Derderian et al. '757.**

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

10 **In paragraph 18, claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095, Enomoto, and Babbin et al. '942 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Satzler '039.**

15 Claim 3 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1 which has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for several reasons. First, there is no suggestion in any of the references to combine them. Taken alone, none of the references renders the claimed invention obvious.

20 Why would anyone having skill in the art look to combine the teachings of Babbin '095 which uses a jacket and cure times of 50 minutes (Examples 1-3, Table I of Babbin '095) and 40 minutes (Example 4) with the teachings of Enomoto which uses a salt bath? Babbin '095, as understood, provides a stationary cure, not a continuous cure further evidencing a difference in the technology between applicants' invention and Babbin '095. Applicants invention is designed for the rapid production of hose at 1200 feet per hour

while Enomoto is designed to produce hose at a rate of 980 mm/min which is approximately 1 yard per minute which is approximately 180 feet per hour. The rapid rate of production is enabled in part by the non-contact heater. Enomoto is a different process which is directed toward manufacture of braided hose. Likewise, Satzler is directed toward a braided hose. Enomoto and Satzler are directed toward production of hose which is supposed to maintain its round shape whereas the hose of the instant invention is a lay flat hose. Babbin '942 is directed toward vulcanizing a hose which is transparent to microwave radiation and which was cited as a non-contact energy source as applied to claim 1.

A person of ordinary skill in the art is a person that would not innovate. Without some suggestion in the references as to their combination or modification, there is no prima facie case of obviousness.

Reconsideration of amended claim 3 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 19 of the final office action, claims 11-12 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095 in view of Enomoto, Satzler, and Babbin et al. '942.

Claim 11 is patentable for the same reasons that claim 3 is patentable as stated above.

Claim 12 is dependent on allowable claim 11 and is therefore allowable

Claim 17 is patentable for the same reason that claims 3, 11 and 12 are patentable and for the further reason that Babbin '095 is a braided hose whose purpose is to stay in a

round shape as compared to a lay flat woven hose.

Reconsideration of claims 11, 12 and 17 is requested.

In paragraph 20 of the final office action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbin '095 in view of Enomoto, Satzler, Babbin et al. '942 and Tanaka '905.

Again, there is no suggestion in any of these references for their combination or modification (individually or collectively). Apparently the Examiner has cited Tanaka because of the woven fabric, but this does nothing more than add disorder to the rejection because Tanaka lacks the required suggestion to modify or combine as well.

Reconsideration of claim 17 is requested.

In paragraph 21 of the final office action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty in view of Babbin et al. '942.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled.

In paragraph 22 of the office action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty in view of Tanaka, Enomoto and Satzler.

Again, there is no suggestion for combination or modification of the references. The woven fabric 15 identified by the Examiner is really tie gum and the outer rubber hose material 19 identified by the Examiner is also tie gum. As understood, the reinforcement material 18b is embedded into the tie gum as it is wound around the existing tube. The extrusion head of Tanaka wouldn't work with the reinforced hose of

Dougherty because to extrude onto, into and through the rubber must go through the fabric and this is impossible in the case of Dougherty since the reinforcement is wound into the tie gum. This is quite different from applicant's extrusion process and it is only when bits and pieces of the references are taken out of context and reformulated as
5 claimed in claim 17 that a rejection is incorrectly made. It is respectfully suggested that the rejection be withdrawn as it is truly not well taken and reconsideration be given to claim 17.

**In regard to paragraph 23 of the final office action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty, Tanaka, Enomoto,
10 Satzler and Babbin '942.**

Claim 17 is patentable for the reasons given in response to the rejection of claim 17 in paragraph 22 of the office action. This rejection adds the microwave vulcanization of Babbin '942 to the other references.

Reconsideration of claim 17 is requested.

15 In regard to paragraph 24 of the final office action, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torghele in view of Tanaka and Enomoto as set forth in paragraph 16 of the previous office action.

Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled.

20 In regard to paragraph 25 of the final office action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torghele, Tanaka, and Enomoto as

applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Dougherty as set forth in paragraph 17 of the previous office action.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

5 In regard to paragraph 26 of the final office action, claims 36, 41, and 42 were rejected as being unpatentable over Torghele.

Claim 36 has been rewritten to depend from allowable claim 33. Claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled.

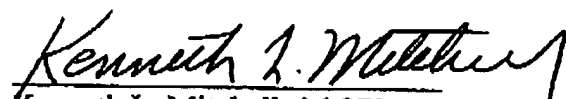
Applicants note the allowable subject matter set forth in paragraphs 27, 28, and 29 of the final office action.

10 Claim 9 has been rewritten. Claims 13 and 18-20 have not been rewritten as they depend from allowable base claims. Claim 33 has been rewritten and claim 34 depends therefrom. Claim 30 has been rewritten and depends from allowable claim 26.

Applicants also request that the Examiner acknowledge the Request For Correction Of Inventorship filed December 11, 2001. The inventors are Robert Harcourt and John
15 Edward Meadowcroft.

Please contact the undersigned by phone if any matter in this application can be expedited or if there are any questions.

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